Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06295 281514Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AS-01 /027 W
---------- 126233 281518Z /45
O R 281430Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3153
SECDEF WASHDC//ASD:ISA/DSAA// IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN//J3//
USMTM/DCR RIYADH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-7-SA//

S E C R E T JIDDA 6295

LIMDIS DISTRIBUTE AS EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, MPOL, YS, YE
SUBJ: PDRY/YAR BALANCE OF MILITARY FORCES AND POSSIBLE RESULTS

REF: (A) SANA 4227 (NOTAL), (B) JIDDA 5106 111255Z JUL 78 (NOTAL),
(C) JIDDA 5129 120930Z JUL 78 (NOTAL), (D) JIDDA 5695
031558Z AUG 78 (NOTAL), (E) JIDDA 6140 (NOTAL)

1. WE NOTE IN REF A THE MARKED MILITARY IMBALANCE BETWEEN YAR AND PDRY MILITARY FORCES, EVEN IF WE ACCEPT EMBASSY SANA'S MORE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES OF PDRY FORCES INSTEAD OF YARG ESTIMATES. WE ALSO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DISAGREE WITH SANA'S OPINION THAT THE YAWNING GAP BETWEEN YAR AND PDRY FORCES CANNOT HELP BUT ACT AS A SPUR TO THE EXPANSIONIST PDRY GOVERNMENT TO MOVE AGAINST THE YAR AFTER IT HAS STABILIZED ITS INTERNAL POLITICS, WHICH SANA ESTIMATES WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS OR LESS.

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2. WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ATTENTION AGAIN TO STATEMENTS BY MIN DEF PRINCE SULTAN AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI, WHO SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA CONSIDERED YAR TO BE ITS FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AND THAT IF YAR IS ATTACKED BY PDRY, SAUDI ARABIA WOULD COME TO YAR'S DEFENSE (SEE REFS B, D, AND D).

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3. WE THINK THAT BEST WAY TO PREVENT FULL-SCALE WAR FROM BREAKING OUT IN ARABIAN PENINSULA IS TO REDRESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE MILITARY IMBALANCE CURRENTLY EXISTING IN PDRY'S FAVOR. WE RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT FIND A WAY TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO KING'S LETTER ON YAR (REF E).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA06295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780351-0147
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780818/aaaaaoyq.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 121ef25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SANA 4227, 78 JIDDA 5106, 78 JIDDA 5129, 78 JIDDA 5695
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1604776
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PDRY/YAR BALANCE OF MILITARY FORCES AND POSSIBLE RESULTS
TAGS: MORG, MPOL, YS, YE
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/121ef25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014